

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 were previously pending in this patent application. Claims 1-44 stand rejected. Herein, Claims 1, 8, 15, 24, and 35 have been canceled. Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-44 have been amended. New Claims 45-49 have been added. Accordingly, after this Amendment and Response, Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-49 remain pending in this patent application. Further examination and reconsideration in view of the claims, remarks, and arguments set forth below is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ice, U.S. Pat. No. 5,884,031 (hereafter Ice), in view of Grau et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,818,906 (hereafter Grau), in view of Ishida, U.S. Pat. No. 6,122,259 (hereafter Ishida), and further in view of Cucchiara, U.S. Pat. No. 6,141,680 (hereafter Cucchiara). Since Independent Claims 1, 8, 15, 24, and 35 have been canceled, these rejections are now moot.

Dependent Claims 2-7 now depend from Independent Claim 45. Dependent Claims 9-14 now depend from Independent Claim 46. Dependent Claims 16-23 now depend from Independent Claim 47. Dependent Claims 25-34 now depend from Independent Claim 48. Dependent Claims 36-44 now depend from Independent Claim 49. The combination of Ice, Grau, Ishida, and Cucchiara does not disclose all the claim limitations of new Independent Claims

45-49. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 45-49 are patentable over the combination of Ice, Grau, Ishida, and Cucchiara and are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-44 are dependent on one of allowable Independent Claim 45-49, which are allowable over the combination of Ice, Grau, Ishida, and Cucchiara. Hence, it is respectfully submitted that Dependent Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-44 are patentable over the combination of Ice, Grau, Ishida, and Cucchiara for the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the above claims, arguments and remarks overcome all rejections. All remaining claims (Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-49) are neither anticipated nor obvious in view of the cited references. For at least the above-presented reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all remaining claims (Claims 2-7, 9-14, 16-23, 25-34, and 36-49) are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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